

Upon impact, the t-bar shaped supports absorb the force by allowing the t-bar to be pushed back to push back on the spring. Upon completion of the impact, the spring releases back to the original position. In one embodiment, four t-bar shaped supports are coupled to the back side of the protective device.

[003] In one embodiment, the protective device is 60 inches in height, 20 inches in width and length, and is 3/16 inches in thickness. The protective device may be manufactured with wood, metal, plastic or any combination of these materials. In one embodiment, the support pipes may comprise a 1 ¼ inches base pipe with a 1 inch support pipe. In alternative embodiments, the main and top panel may be flat shaped or arched.

Also, in another embodiment, the protective device may be mounted to anchor pipes in the ground via a leveling/alignment anchor apparatus. The anchor apparatus may be sealed with a plurality of rubber plugs.

As previously discussed, a main panel may be used to protect the mailbox or sign and may include a message or sign. In an optional embodiment, a top panel may be coupled to the main panel via interlocking tabs to display a customized message, poster or sign, and may include an address and name plate. Likewise, in another embodiment, a photoelectric cell light may be coupled to the protective device to offer illumination for a message, poster, sign, or any phrase. In yet another embodiment, the top panel may include an outgoing mail flag lever 108.

Please replace the Abstract on page 9 with the following:

A protective device for a mailbox or sign is discussed. The protective device has a main panel coupled to support pipes via a plurality of impact absorption mechanisms. The impact absorption mechanisms are t-bar shaped supports coupled to a back side of the main panel. The t-bar shaped support houses a spring at one end with a rod that has a stop slot and a stop screw.

The protective device may also have an optional photoelectric cell light that illuminates a message, poster, sign, or any phrase.